The HANFORD REACH

June 19, 2000

A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy for all Hanford Site employees

WRAPPED FOR SHIPMENT: Kevin Hope, left, and Cathy Polotto of Fluor Hanford's Waste Management Project load a TRUPACT shipping container with drums of transuranic waste at Hanford's Waste Receiving and Processing (WRAP) facility. A waste shipment that was to depart today for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant was postponed while the New Mexico Environment Department reviews additional data from the Department of Energy before certifying the shipment. "We're disappointed by the delay," said Keith Klein, manager of DOE's Richland Operations Office. "But we respect the process and want to ensure the state of New Mexico has all the information it needs to do the job right."

DOE fined for incomplete tank assessment

ORP given opportunity to halve $200,000 penalty

The Washington State Department of Ecology has fined the U.S. Department of Energy $200,000 for failing to complete a required assessment of double-shell tanks that store highly radioactive waste at Hanford.

Under a 1989 agreement, DOE was required to compile an integrity assessment of the double-shell tanks by Sept. 30, 1999, to determine the structural condition of the tanks. While the assessment report was transmitted on time, an Ecology inspection conducted from October 1999 through March 2000 revealed that DOE's Office of River Protection, which has authority over the underground tanks at Hanford, had not performed all of the planned assessments before the deadline.

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DOE fined for incomplete tank assessments, cont.

The double-shell tanks store waste that has been transferred from leaky and aging single-shell tanks elsewhere on the Hanford Site, along with waste that is generated through ongoing cleanup activities. Ecology compliance inspector Bob Wilson said there is no indication that any double-shell tank currently is leaking, but a full integrity assessment is vital to ensure successful cleanup of tank wastes.

"The double-shell tank system will need to store waste for several more decades before the last of the tank wastes are vitrified into glass for permanent disposal," Wilson said. "We must make sure the double-shell tanks that hold waste are fit and working properly."

Ami Sidpara, ORP's acting assistant manager for Operations, said his office deferred the assessments to focus resources on recent safety resolution efforts such as removing high-heat sludge from Tank C-106 and removing the crust growth from Tank SY-101.

"While we're disappointed, we're committed to continue to work with Ecology on this matter," said Sidpara. "We're going to go forward now on implementing the technical scope and schedule we've agreed to."

While the state's inspection did not show that any tanks appear likely to leak in the near future, Wilson said the inspection did reveal that at least one tank might have to be removed from service earlier than planned. Additional evaluations and analysis of all double-shell tanks are expected to provide additional life expectancy.

In addition to being fined, DOE was ordered to completely examine the entire double-shell tank system by March 2006, with significant portions of the work to be completed by the end of this year. If Ecology's administrative order is fully satisfied, the penalty will be cut in half.

Wilson said the Office of River Protection has acknowledged the problems identified in Ecology's inspection and is working actively to identify solutions.

"Once the problem was brought to their attention, they've worked cooperatively with us to develop a technically sound scope of work that is the basis of our administrative order," Wilson said. "In return, we will cut the penalty in half if the work gets completed on time."

Dana Bryson, director of ORP's Operations Support Division, said, "The Office of River Protection is committed to maintaining the integrity of our double-shell tanks. These tanks are essential to the retrieval and treatment of the high-level waste." ❖

The HANFORD REACH

Distribution questions: call the Mailroom, 375-5170

See the *Hanford Reach* on the Web at: **www.Hanford.gov/reach/index.html**

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FH team achieves 5 million safe hours

Employees of the Fluor Hanford project team have achieved 5 million safe work hours without a serious injury that kept an employee from returning to work.

"This is a major safety milestone," said Ron Hanson, Fluor Hanford president and chief executive officer. " Here at Hanford, we are committed to doing work safely because safety is an integral part of our culture. This accomplishment is particularly significant because it represents the safe work habits of more than 5,000 individuals. All of us working together on the Fluor Hanford project can take pride in this accomplishment."

All employees and subcontractors under the Fluor Hanford contract contributed to the achievement, including bargaining-unit members of the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council and the Hanford Guards Union, professional and clerical staff members, and the employees of Fluor subcontractors.

The significance of this milestone is that it was accomplished over a five-month timeframe. The 5 million hours started Dec. 14, and the milestone was achieved June 1 with verifications completed last week.

"The credit for this achievement goes to the workforce members on the front line and their efforts to stay focused on the work, while keeping an eye out for their personal safety and the safety of those around them," said Tom Schaffer, president of HAMTC. "Without their efforts, this rare achievement in our industry would not be possible."

Dave Jackson, Fluor Hanford director of Occupational Safety and Health, said the Hanford safety record has risen to third best in the DOE complex. "Our employees believe in and use their stop-work authority," Jackson said. "We work closely with the union safety representative program to ensure employee voices are heard and that worker safety is always maintained. The men and women who perform hands-on work deserve the credit for achieving this milestone."

A group of volunteers is currently working on an appropriate recognition of this milestone and will announce it later this month. Becky Austin, Fluor Hanford vice president of Environment, Safety and Health, said, "We're continually demonstrating that work can be accomplished in a safe manner at Hanford. With worker involvement leading us to this level of safety performance, we will be celebrating 10 million safe work hours in the fall." ✦

The article "ORP makes progress on finding vitrification contractor" (*Hanford Reach*, June 12) stated that the Office of River Protection's final stop-work order to BNFL Inc. became effective June 8 and that a "bridge" contract was signed with Bechtel National.

In fact, ORP was unable to finalize the termination of the BNFL privatization contract and reassignment of the workscope June 8 as originally planned. Several issues remained with Bechtel, BNFL Inc., and DOE Headquarters that could not be closed out. ORP Manger Dick French is meeting with Headquarters officials to try to resolve those issues.

Final discussions with BNFL Inc. and Bechtel are currently under way, and ORP anticipates expedited resolution of the remaining issues and signing of the bridge contract. ✦

DOE, PNNL participate in Argentina tech exchange

Tim Ledbetter, PNNL

Marcus Glasper, right, of the DOE-RL Office of the Assistant Manager for Science and Technology, and Miguel Audero of Argentina sign a "record of visit" document at the close of a recent technical exchange in Argentina. Roger Gilchrist (back row, second from left) of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Environmental Technology Division also was a member of the U.S. delegation.

The United States and Argentina will be working together to find solutions for tough nuclear waste-management and cleanup issues. As an initial step in the joint project, a U.S. delegation representing the Department of Energy's Tanks Focus Area recently traveled to Argentina for a technical exchange meeting.

Participating in the meeting were Marcus Glasper of the DOE Richland Operations Office, who led the U.S. delegation, and Roger Gilchrist, a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory staff member. Glasper is the program integration manager for the Tanks Focus Area in the DOE-RL Office of the Assistant Manager for Science and Technology. Gilchrist is the technical integration coordinator for the program. Other members of the U.S. delegation were Bill Holtzscheiter of the Savannah River Technology Center and Ana Ferreira of Florida International University.

"The United States has established this partnership with Argentina to explore how both countries can share their expertise and technologies for managing and cleaning up radioactive and mixed waste," Glasper said. The joint project is an outgrowth of Argentina's decision to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which encourages participating nations to work together on issues related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Tanks Focus Area, which develops technologies to remediate radioactive waste stored in underground tanks at five U.S. sites, is establishing the partnership with the Argentine government under the auspices of the Joint Coordinating Committee for Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management, or JCCRM. The JCCRM is administered through DOE's Office of Science and Technology.

Worthwhile exchange

The U.S. delegation arrived in Argentina May 1, participated in meetings in the cities of San Carlos de Bariloche and Buenos Aires, toured nuclear facilities and concluded the visit May 5.

"Regarding waste materials, Argentina has some of the same problems we have," Glasper said, "and is working on issues that may be of benefit to us — particularly in the areas of corrosion control and monitoring, nondestructive evaluation and chemistry."

The U.S. expects to provide technical expertise that will help Argentina determine the appropriate method for treating its nuclear waste. Argentina,

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according to Glasper, ultimately wants to use vitrification but must prove to the Argentine public that the technique will work.

Glasper and Gilchrist agreed that the trip was worthwhile. “We visited the country’s three main nuclear installations where research is conducted and gained knowledge of Argentina’s waste management capabilities,” Gilchrist said. “The people we met with were intelligent, articulate, eager and willing to work with us to solve their problems as well as our own. We have created a good working relationship.”

That working relationship will continue during the next few months as the participants remain in contact with each other and hash out the details of future collaborative projects. In September, both sides will meet in the U.S. to finalize project arrangements.

“We definitely will continue to work together,” Glasper said. ✦

Wildland fuel condition prompts moderate fire hazard rating

After evaluating the condition of wildland fuels, the Hanford Fire Department changed the site fire-condition signs to “Moderate Hazard,” effective June 8. Seasonal trends indicate that the fire hazard will increase to “Extreme” within the next few weeks. Five fire-condition signs are strategically located along site entry access roads and serve as a fire safety tool for employees and site visitors.

Employees are advised to use caution when traveling around the site. Once the fire-condition signs are moved to “Extreme,” the following restrictions will be in place:

- Open controlled burning will be discontinued for the duration of the summer wildland fire season.

- Off-road driving, where there is vegetation or natural fuel cover, is restricted to only those activities considered absolutely necessary, and then only in a vehicle equipped with a means of communication, a portable fire extinguisher with at least a 2A rating, and a shovel.

- Vehicles must not be allowed to idle when parked off paved roadways unless they are equipped with spark arresters and the appropriate shielding of the exhaust system.

If a fire occurs, notify the Hanford Fire Department immediately (dial 9-1-1 from Hanford Site telephones, or 373-3800 when using a cellular phone), even if you think it has been extinguished. The fire department will check the burn site for possible rekindling. ✦

THE GOOD, THE BIRD AND THE UGLY: On June 5, the young fawn at left was found curled up outside a construction trailer in the 100N Area. A crew directed by Bechtel Hanford environmental personnel searched for and located the mother and herded her into an area where she was able to reunite with her fawn. On June 7, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory staff members in the Energy and Environmental Sciences Building discovered a pair of great horned owls perched in a tree in one of the EESB courtyards. PNNL's Mike Berriochoa snapped the photo. Wildlife expert Brett Tiller of PNNL said the owls like quiet, confined spaces, so it's not surprising they visited the courtyard. Employees at T Plant in the 200 West Area were somewhat less enthusiastic to find the rattlesnake at right sunning itself on the plant's loading dock. Eddie Magness of Protection Technology Hanford circulated the photo with a warning that poisonous critters sometimes share our work places at Hanford.

HEHF opens doors of remodeled 200W satellite clinic July 10

Diane Turney, HEHF

Hanford Environmental Health Foundation's newly remodeled 200W satellite clinic will open its doors on July 10. The opening of this health- care facility will be coupled with the closure of the 200E Health Care Center on July 7.

The 200W satellite clinic, located approximately 1.5 miles west of the 200E Health Care Center, will be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will offer the same services — medical examinations of all types, occupational primary care, first aid, laboratory services, x-ray and health education — as the Hanford Square I facility.

Employee use of the 200W satellite clinic will be monitored during its first three months of operation to determine whether either of HEHF's facilities will need to change operating hours to meet the needs of the Hanford Site.

Site medical schedulers began to schedule workers for their health maintenance, medical monitoring and job qualification exams at the new facility on May 30. The appointment slips will continue to be sent to managers who will forward the date, time and location of the examination to their employees. The new appointment slips will list "HS1" for examinations scheduled at the Hanford Square I facility or "H2W" for examinations scheduled at the 200W satellite clinic.

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HEHF opens doors of remodeled 200W satellite clinic July 10, cont.

Having two facilities offering the same services requires a few changes. Although most of these changes are behind the scenes, a few do involve patients. One such change concerns medical records. Until all medical information is in an electronic format, the records for patients with scheduled appointments at the 200W satellite clinic will have to be sent by courier from the Hanford Square I facility one day prior to the appointment.

It is vitally important for HEHF's physicians and physician assistants to review the patient's complete medical history to ensure accuracy in the medical evaluation and treatment. It is essential for patients to pay close attention to the location of scheduled appointments and show up at the assigned location. *For scheduled medical examinations, if the medical records are not available for the physician's reference, the patient will not be seen.*

Because medical records must be sent to the 200W satellite clinic for appointments in that facility, all cancellations and rescheduled appointments must be made at least 3 days before the appointment. If workers fail to cancel appointments and do not show up at the appointed time and location, there will be an office charge equal to the full amount of the missed examination.

HEHF's current policy of charging for the "no-shows" will be temporarily lifted for those who mistakenly arrive at the wrong facility. The temporary grace period will be extended for three weeks while managers and workers adjust to this new scheduling process.

HEHF has made great strides in scheduling and providing complete physical examinations, lab work and health education services to each patient in less than 90 minutes. But emergency situations do arise, and delays in service times are a consequence. HEHF's policy has always been focused on what is in the best interests of the patients.

Patients will continue to be seen in the following order:

1) Emergencies

2) Scheduled appointments

3) Non-emergency walk-ins.

If an emergency situation causes an extended delay for a scheduled examination, the patient will be given the opportunity to reschedule the appointment.

You can help expedite visits by scheduling appointments whenever possible, even for Occupational Primary Care (for return-to-work visits, work-restriction reviews or the sniffles). To schedule an appointment with OPC at either health-care facility, call 376-6251.

Until it closes on July 7, the 200E Health Care Center will continue to operate Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Hanford Fire Department will continue to handle medical emergencies. Personnel requiring emergency medical assistance must call 9-1-1 from site telephones or 373-3800 from cellular phones. After HEHF work hours, employees should report to the nearest fire station for evaluation for non-emergency medical treatment beyond what can be provided at the work site. ✥

Navy Crane Center visits Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

Michele Gerber, FH

Representatives of the U.S. Navy's Crane Center who visited Hanford in late May to evaluate five cranes crucial to the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project have issued their preliminary findings. The SNF Project's crane and rigging program is compliant and is staffed by dedicated and knowledgeable personnel, according to the NCC report, and no safety issues were found. Some recommendations were made to increase the level of confidence in the use of the SNF Project cranes.

"Crane operators have met all training requirements and training has been properly documented," said Mark Jaxtheimer, team leader for the NCC group of seven experts. "The rigging gear program is in compliance with requirements and no deficient gear was found."

The NCC team identified some areas for improvement, however. The team recommended that a series of tests be performed on the K West Basin 32-ton bridge crane to ensure uninterrupted service, advised that crane engineering responsibility be centralized and said more attention should be given to formalizing troubleshooting and root cause analysis when crane deficiencies or problems are discovered. A final report from the NCC is expected later this month.

Joe Escamillo, program manager of K Area Operations for the Office of Spent Nuclear Fuels in the DOE Richland Operations Office, worked closely with the NCC team during its four-day visit to Hanford. "They are professional in their observations and went out of their way to ensure that their feelings regarding how they do work with the Navy did not influence how they looked at our program," Escamillo said. "They took time to understand the way DOE works and the contractual methodology used on this site."

The NCC team also worked closely with Rich Bilskis, Fluor Hanford maintenance manager for the SNF Project, and with several staff members of Fluor Hanford SNF Operations, Maintenance and Engineering. "The NCC conducted a professional audit," Bilskis said. "We intend to use them as an asset for information on a proper rigging equipment program."

Canister Storage Building Operations Manager Oly Serrano (back to camera) discusses the CSB cranes with a member of the NCC team during assessment of the facility's cranes .

Crucial to project

DOE-RL determined last year that an independent review of SNF crane operations was needed before fuel removal operations begin. The NCC, based near Philadelphia, was selected because it has achieved a remarkable safety and performance record with the approximately 8,000 U.S. Navy cranes around the world. NCC representatives consult with other branches of the armed services, private industry and DOE.

The NCC performed visual and "no-load" operational inspections of five of the SNF Project cranes, including all of those necessary to begin fuel movement out of the K West Basin in November. They included the 32-ton K West transfer crane that will lift the Multi-Canister Overpacks

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filled with spent nuclear fuel, scrap fuel pieces and water. Fully loaded, some MCOs will weigh approximately 60,000 pounds. That's very near the crane's rated capacity, which does include a safety margin.

Other cranes included the monorail that is part of the Fuel Retrieval System in the K West Basin, the hoist at the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility, the receiving crane at the Canister Storage Building and the CSB's specialized Multi-Canister Overpack Handling Machine. The latter is a 450-ton machine that will safely move the MCOs into below-grade storage tubes after they arrive at the facility. It's essentially a large gantry crane with a permanently attached, moveable cask for shielding MCO transfers.

The NCC also reviewed operations and maintenance procedures, troubleshooting logs and training records, and observed Hanford operators putting the SNF cranes through their paces.

As a result of the NCC's inspections, Bilskis said the SNF Project will create a new database to track rigging components. Other changes in SNF programs will be evaluated after the NCC issues its final report early this summer.

Safe handling crucial

The spent nuclear fuel in the K Basins contains about 55 million curies of radioactivity, or about 10 percent of the total number of curies now known to exist at the Hanford Site. The K Basins inventory is by far the site's largest collection of radioactive materials outside the 200 Area.

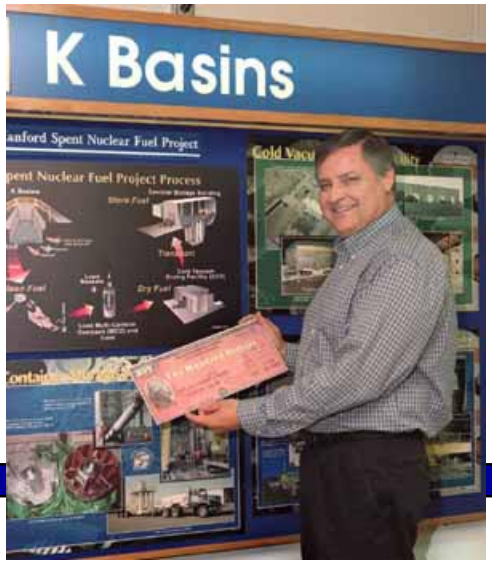
Spent nuclear fuel is expected to begin leaving the 100 K Area for the CSB early in FY 2001, proceeding through drying in the CVD facility and then to storage below the CSB, while never leaving the containment of the Multi-Canister Overpacks. Cranes will handle the fuel thousands of times.

"Safe handling of the fuel every step of the way is crucial to FH, RL and the stakeholders," said Bill Miller, FH chief engineer for the SNF Project. "Making sure our crane program is the best it can be is essential to this effort."

More about the NCC can be learned at its Web site at **http://ncc.navfac.navy.mil/index.htm**. ✦

HIGH-LEVEL VISITOR: Ron Naventi, senior vice president and manager of Operations for Bechtel National as well as a member of the board of directors of Bechtel Hanford, reviewed progress on cleanup at the 100H remediation site. Contaminated material is excavated and put into trucks for transport to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. The work is 93 percent complete with more than 400,000 tons of material already moved. Left to right are Tom Kisenwether, BHI task lead, Naventi, and Randy Havenor, BHI subcontractor technical representative.

SECURITY PAYS: Ken Johnson of the Fluor Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project is the April winner in the "Security Pays In Many Ways" campaign. Johnson was nominated by Liz Koster of Protection Technology Hanford for his efforts to improve security at the K West Basin. If you know someone on the Fluor Hanford team or the River Protection Project who is providing "extra" support to site security, nominate him or her for an award. Send e-mail to ^Security Education PHMC or mail your nomination to Security Education at L4-09. Include your name and a brief description of the extra support given. All accepted nominees receive a special memento from Safeguards and Security and are then eligible for the monthly grand prize of a $200 Savings Bond.



ERC team completes legacy waste cleanup at KE/KW

Steve Sautter, BHI

Have you ever tackled a major spring-cleaning job? If so, it's a good bet it didn't come close to the magnitude of the one faced this spring by Bechtel Hanford, Inc.'s Environmental Restoration Contractor team. The four-month "spring-cleaning" project that ended last month included the safe removal of nearly 80 tons of miscellaneous waste materials from two Hanford reactor facilities – KE and KW. The waste was safely disposed of in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, or ERDF.

"The project was an outstanding example of teamwork, coordination and communication," said Rick Woods, the ERC team's task lead on the project. "That was not only true among the ERC team organizations, but also with Fluor Hanford, whose employees are preparing to remove spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins."

The common name for the waste removed during this project is "legacy" waste – materials (spare parts, tools and other equipment) abandoned in place after the closure of the reactors. According to Woods, his crews removed nearly every piece of legacy waste that could physically be taken from the two reactor facilities.

A good share of the materials removed from KE and KW actually came from N Reactor. BHI field supervisor Vern Rice, who worked at N Reactor during its operation, had a hand in storing some of that material at K West.

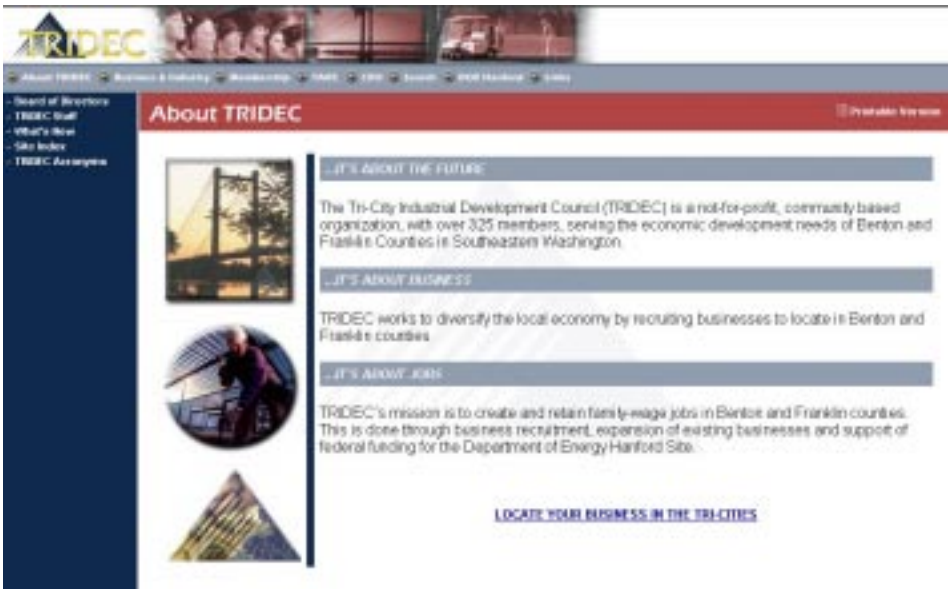
"Much of the waste we removed from K West consisted of spare parts and tools from N Reactor operations and maintenance," said Rice. "At that time, we had limited storage space, so we used the area in front of the reactor face at K West."

The ERC found 64 boxes of N Reactor waste stored at KW. After being itemized and surveyed for radioactive contamination, the waste materials in the boxes were packaged for disposal. The legacy wastes were then safely placed in the ERDF.

Woods has great praise for the crew's job performance and personal commitment to safety. "Our 16-member team logged nearly 18,000 work hours with no lost-time injuries," he added. "Our safety record for this task exemplifies our employees' commitment to both their own safety and that of their co-workers." ✦

LMSI helps TRIDEC redesign cyberspace presence

Debra Miller, LMSI



It's about the future. It's about business. It's about jobs.

This is the message users of **www.tridec.org** will receive when they log onto the recently revamped Web site of the Tri-City Industrial Development Council, or TRIDEC.

Realizing the importance of having a cyberspace presence while competing for new business and jobs, TRIDEC staff members knew it was time to redesign their existing Web site and transform it from a traditional online "brochure" to a dynamic Web-based recruiting tool.

"Many businesses interested in relocating or expanding will conduct their initial gathering and screening of candidates on the Internet," said Bill Martin, TRIDEC president. "If they're not impressed with your online presence, they simply won't look any further."

In today's technology-savvy and information-hungry business environment, a Web site is considered to be only as good as the information contained on it. "Many companies and organizations developed Web sites two or three years ago and the information on them has not changed since," Martin said. "We needed to create a Web-based recruiting tool that had an attention-grabbing look and could consistently deliver well-organized and current information on the Tri-Cities. It was one of the most critical components of our marketing strategy."

LMSI expertise sought

So TRIDEC joined forces with local information technology service provider Lockheed Martin Services, Inc. "We specialize in economic development," Martin explained. "They specialize in information technology with specific expertise in designing state-of-the-art, Web-

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based technology systems. It was a best-of-breed approach."

Over several months, Martin's crew met with project lead Cindy Moody-Brock and Web programmer Josh Zook. They began defining and then refining the Web site design.

The result is **www.tridec.org**, which was officially unveiled June 7 at the Shilo Inn in Richland. Through an impressive animated multi-media presentation, visitors learned that **www.tridec.org** has been designed to provide current demographic data and frequently requested information about the Tri-City area to prospective new businesses.

Visitors to the Web site can take a "virtual tour" of buildings and office space available for lease or purchase. These tours were made possible by the use of Virtual Reality Markup Language (VRML) technology, which operates on a "cold fusion" server. Cold fusion is the industry's leading application server technology.

The site also collects data on the types of visitors and their interests, which TRIDEC administrators use as market trending and analysis tools.


Zook


Moody-Brock

User-friendly

LMSI went one step further by adding a unique Web system design that spares TRIDEC the costly maintenance expense typically associated with traditional Web sites.

"Our database-driven back end allows TRIDEC administrators to update the information and even create new Web pages to the site without requiring any programming skills," said Zook. "They just type in their changes and the system updates itself in real time."

TRIDEC members will benefit from the searchable membership directory. Cyber-citizens are able to search with as little information as a member's first name, and the addition of e-mail and Web site addresses gives TRIDEC members enhanced visibility and accessibility from within the membership directory. Businesses that want to join or renew their TRIDEC membership can now do it online.

"This is an excellent example of community collaboration," Martin said. "**Www.tridec.org** looks great. It contains valuable information that will help attract new businesses and jobs to our community. It enhances the visibility of our members. And it's designed to grow as we grow. This is not just a Web site — it's the portal to the future for the Tri-Cities." ❖

DOE audit report praises basket fabrication team

Michael Turner, FH

Dave Bushey of Fluor Hanford Site Services performs welding on a spent nuclear fuel basket in Hanford's 328 Building.

The multi-contractor team that makes up the Multi-Canister Overpack Basket Fabrication Project recently received glowing praise in an audit of its fabrication process by the Department of Energy's National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, or NSNFP.

The audit, officially termed a "surveillance report," was performed to determine the effectiveness of procedure implementation, quality assurance and fabrication activities within the project.

The NSNFP surveillance report deviates from the usual dry language of most reports to note several highlights of the effort in Hanford's 328 Building. That's where the overpacks, called MCOs, and the fuel baskets are being prepared to hold spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project.

In fact, the report was quite complimentary. For example, the report notes that the basket fabrication team, led by Fluor Hanford and DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, "is an exceptional example of how 'cooperative teamwork' should function." And that "the entire administrative staff and professional craft personnel are very dedicated to the 'task at hand' and are making every effort to 'do the job right the first time.' They should be applauded."

Kimball Smith, who is MCO Basket Fabrication Team manager for the SNF Project, is very proud of the high marks his team received. "The project is a stellar example of how individuals who were picked for their skills and not because of contractor affiliation can come together to demonstrate that safety class fabrication work can be performed at Hanford, while adhering to rigorous quality assurance program requirements," he said.

Smith explained that the project is made up of individuals from 10 different companies who have come together in a short time and taken "ownership" of the project. "Key to the teaming effort is the contribution from Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council machinists, sheet metal workers and welders who have provided valuable suggestions on cost-cutting measures to simplify component designs and assembly methods," he added. "Because team members 'own' the product, they consistently offer ideas that may cut costs, time or both." Craft workers, he said, were able to cut about 75 redundant procedures from the welding process.

Bob Frix, president and general manager of DynCorp Tri-Cities Services, also offered congratulatory sentiments. "I'm very pleased with the efforts of the MCO Basket Fabrication Team," he said. "The group has weathered significant challenges and they have handled them with determined professionalism. They are a talented and dedicated team."

Parallel to the Hanford surveillance, quality assurance representatives from DOE's Idaho and Nevada Offices also completed a QA surveillance of the fabrication processes for the MCOs themselves. The surveillance, conducted with the participation of the DOE Richland Operations Office and Fluor Hanford,

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found no deficiencies.

The 14-foot-long stainless steel MCOs, which will hold the fuel baskets, are being manufactured at the Joseph Oat Corporation in New Jersey, where the surveillance took place. Joseph Oat is one of very few businesses in the nation to hold the prestigious N-Stamp, a quality certification specifying that fabrication is performed to code standards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Hanford's SNF Project is on a fast track to remove 2,300 tons of highly radioactive materials from storage in aging pools near the Columbia River to dry, safe storage several miles from the river. The project is important because its completion will bring the Hanford Site significantly closer to the DOE-RL vision of collecting highly radioactive materials in the central plateau.

DOE-RL is also demolishing aging reactor buildings and support structures, digging out old waste disposal sites and removing contaminated debris from the Columbia River shoreline. ❖

Tri-Cities economy continues strong growth

Putting assets to work for the future of the area is one of the three cleanup "outcomes" the U.S. Department of Energy is pursuing at Hanford, and a report released on June 6 shows progress toward that goal.

The report, titled *Hanford, Diversification, and the Tri-Cities Economy,* is prepared annually by DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to measure the impact of DOE-funded work on the economies of Benton and Franklin counties. The most recent findings show that DOE and its contractors are having a positive effect on the Tri-Cities area economy.

The report shows Hanford accounted for 32 percent of all local employment and 35 percent of local earned income in fiscal year 1999 that ended last Sept. 30. The report also shows that DOE, contractor and community diversification efforts are paying off, with nearly 900 new non-Hanford local jobs created in FY 1999.

The income figure represents a significant drop from the percentage in FY 1998, when it appeared that Hanford salaries and wages accounted for 65 percent of all local payrolls. However, in updating the economic model to reflect the new structure, an error was discovered in the old model. The corrected estimate shows that, in fact, only about 44 percent of the total local employment (36 percent of earnings) in FY 1998 were related to Hanford.

"This is actually very positive news for the community, which is working so hard to reduce its dependence on government-funded projects and their impact to the local economy," said June Ollero of the DOE Office of Training and Asset Transition. "While Hanford contributes less to local earnings than we originally calculated, it still has a huge impact, and continued economic development is still vital to diversification and the future."

In small part, the decrease also reflects the use of a more up-to-date estimate of the local economic structure, based on the 1997 economic census year and a broader definition of earnings that includes proprietor income as well as wages.

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Tri-Cities economy continues strong growth, cont.

The forecast suggests diversification may be slowing, with approximately 400 additional non-Hanford jobs for FY 2000. “The new jobs are due to much hard work on the part of the contractors and the community to actively recruit or start new businesses and create new jobs,”said Ollero. “However, we need to continue these efforts to ensure that economic diversification can offset any reduced employment levels at Hanford.”

The report evaluates a variety of factors that contribute to the economic structure of the Tri-Cities, including Hanford impacts on local tax bases, population, schools and public services, agriculture, traditional major employers and new employers. It also highlights trends in economic activity.

Among other things, the report shows that Hanford added about $786 million to the local economy through payrolls and local purchase of goods and services in FY 1999. Hanford also accounted for about $2.1 million in philanthropic gifts, not including millions of dollars worth of volunteer staff time and excess equipment.

Additional highlights of the report show positive economic factors in Benton and Franklin counties in FY 1999 compared to the previous year. For example, the population of Benton and Franklin counties is up by about 2,000. Average housing values are up more than $7,000, and housing starts increased by more than 100. Apartment vacancies are down by 4 percent.

For FY 2000, which will end Sept. 30, agricultural income is projected to be up after a very poor 1999. Hanford jobs and income are remaining steady, the overall number of jobs will increase by about 3,750 over 1999, and earnings will be up about $180 million over 1999.

The outlook for FY 2001 includes the possible addition of up to 2,000 construction workers to begin building facilities to vitrify Hanford tank waste. In FY 1999, Hanford tank waste cleanup efforts directly added another 450 jobs and $26 million in earnings.

The report is available at the DOE Public Reading Room on the Washington State University Tri-Cities campus and on the Hanford Web site at **http://www.hanford.gov/econtran/index.htm**. ✦

ALARA workshop draws international students

The second successful Hanford Applied ALARA Workshop was held May 22-24 at Richland's Shilo Inn, sponsored by the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office in partnership with the Hanford contractors.

To use ALARA principles means to strive for radiation exposures that are "as low as reasonably achievable."

"This workshop allows us to make a contribution to the industry," said Greg Perkins, director of Fluor Hanford Radiation Protection. "At the same time, the workshop allows Hanford to benefit from industry input to advance the practice of ALARA on the site."

The workshop hosted 126, including people from Hanford and from commercial nuclear power plants, the DOE Savannah River Site, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and other nuclear facilities. Also attending were foreign nationals from Norway, Eng-land and Canada.

Fluor Hanford safety engineer Ray Akita explains principles of ALARA to a group of workshop participants touring the 222-S Laboratory hot cells.

This unique three-day conference was opened with a keynote address by Larry Waggoner, recent recipient of the Operational Health Physicist of the Year Award from the Columbia Chapter of the Health Physics Society. Waggoner, co-founder of the Hanford ALARA Center of Technology, discussed the opportunities for innovative application of ALARA because of the many varieties of radioisotopes present at Hanford.

Waggoner also discussed the growth of ALARA over the course of his career. His work in the field began at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, where he was the first radiological control technician. He has since been recognized as an international expert in the field of applied ALARA technologies. Waggoner stressed the importance of including radiological controls and ALARA early in the work planning process, and of working in concert with operations and maintenance personnel.

The first day of the conference included 31 presentations on 17 topics. The topics generally dealt with lessons learned in the application of ALARA to accomplish radiological work at various facilities. Also included were topics focusing on new technology for radiological work, using engineered controls.

Tour included

On the second day of the workshop, a bus tour brought attendees to demonstrations in the field of applied ALARA practices. The tour included a stop at the 222-S Laboratory, where attendees observed the ALARA aspects of operating a hot cell. At the Canister Storage Building, the unique ALARA designs for canister receipt and storage were observed and discussed. The River Protection Project presented the grab-sample containment mockup for sampling waste tanks.

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ALARA workshop draws international students, cont.

After lunch at the ALARA Center of Technology, tours of the center were conducted. Vendors demonstrated hydraulic pipe shearing, an application of a fixative called polyurea, and radiation-hardened camera and video systems. The last stop of the tour was at the Master Lee facility near Energy Northwest, where members of the tour group could see a demonstration of pipe cutting and refurbishment and the application of fixatives to radioactively contaminated surfaces.

Open forum

The final day of the conference featured 12 workshops on 8 topics. Participants were able to discuss issues of interest at their own facilities. Topics included dose and contamination control, waste minimization, mock-up training, protective clothing, work planning, conduct of ALARA programs, ALARA problems at plutonium facilities and the application of new technologies.

A number of product vendors were present during the workshop, and they hosted evening displays after the normal workshop hours. The workshop was granted 32 continuing education credits from the American Academy of Health Physics and 1.5 credits from the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists.

A third Applied ALARA Workshop is being planned for next spring. ✦

VEEP VISITS VICINITY: During a stop in the Tri-Cities June 9, Vice President Al Gore is flanked by Washington Governor Gary Locke, left, and Senator Patty Murray while a press photographer captures them on film. In the photo below, the Vice President and his entourage take to the river for a short tour in private boats. (Gore was piloted by Hanford retiree Rich Steele.) The Vice President spoke at the WSU Tri-Cities campus and declared the 51-mile stretch of the Columbia known as the Hanford Reach to be a national monument.

LETTERS

Employees are invited to write letters of general interest on work-related topics. Anonymous letters will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit letters or not to accept letters for publication. Send your letters to the *Reach*, B3-30, or to *Hanford Reach on e-mail. Letters are limited to 300 words, and must include your name, company, work group and location. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not of DOE-RL, ORP or their contractors.

Grateful boater

I would like to recognize Don Mace of Bechtel Hanford for the assistance he gave to my family and me while we were boating on the Columbia River. My youngest son and his wife were visiting from the East Coast, and my wife and I had taken them on a boat tour up the Columbia.

We had stopped near the old Hanford town site when I noticed that my boat was overheating. The fan belt had failed. We limped back downriver to Ringold where my son approached some people fishing along the shore to ask for help. He met Don, and Don volunteered to drive me back to civilization for help.

Don drove me down to Pasco where I purchased a new fan belt, drove me back to Ringold, loaned me tools to install the belt, and helped push me off to get back into water deep enough to run the motor.

IIt is nice to know that there are people like Don that will take the time and make the effort to help others when they are in trouble.

Thanks, Don.

Dan Button
Office of River Protection

CLASSES

Protrain offers computer training

- **Principles of Project Management Seminar** — June 23. Cost: $49.
- **Excel 2000 Upgrade** — June 27. Covers the new features of Excel 2000 —working with office assistant; using new files, worksheets and formulas; formatting features and using Excel HTML files. Prerequisite: previous versions of Excel. Cost: $99.
- **Word 2000 Upgrade** — June 30. Review new features of Word 2000 — use new document features; Word checking tools; enhanced table, graphic and Word HTML features; and macros. Cost: $99.

June Special! Enroll in both of the 2000 Upgrade programs in June, for only $179.

- **Access Beginning** — June 20. Learn the basic database concepts, review the features of Access, work with objects and tables. Design tables and property fields. Cost: $89.
- **Access Intermediate** — June 21. Create charts, apply filters, define and apply relationships and learn to use form features. Cost: $89.
- **Access Advanced** — June 22. Learn how to use the application development features of the Access database application. Cost: $99.

June Special! Register for all three Access classes for only $249.

- **Word Macros, Merges and Forms** — June 26. Learn the mail merge process to automate sending a form letter, use macros to automate work and create computerized forms. Cost: $99.
- **Word Working with Long Documents** — June 29. Create and manipulate long documents. Learn to customize your default settings and toolbars, place data in worksheets and charts and create tables and figures. Cost: $99.

June Special! Complete both June classes for $179.

- **Outlook 2000 Beginning** — June 23. Learn to work with Outlook basics, office assistant, messaging and features, responding to a voting message and scheduling with calendar. Cost: $89.
- **Access 2000 Beginning** — June 26. Learn to create and modify tables, queries, forms and reports, and use filters. Cost: $89.

Call 946-1123 for more information on Protrain courses.

EOU offers credit for radiation classes

On June 21 at noon, Eastern Oregon University will be holding a free orientation session at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center concerning its distance education program.

Several training courses of the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) have been evaluated by Eastern Oregon University for college

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credit in radiation science. The courses include "Introduction to Radiological Science" (9 lower-division credits), "Radiation Detection and Measurement" (12 upper-division credits), "Radiation Protection and Control" (12 upper-division credits) and "Applied Health Physics Internship" (12 upper-division credits).

Eastern Oregon University offers bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees in six off-campus programs through its Division of Distance Education. Degrees are the same as those earned on campus, but are designed to meet the needs of working adults. Students may earn college credit for work experience and can conveniently earn degrees from home.

Eastern Oregon University has been a nationally recognized leader in distance education for more than 20 years and is accredited by the Northwest Association of State Colleges. For additional information, contact Marie Hall via e-mail at mkhall@eou.edu or by phone at (541) 278-5777, or visit the EOU Web site at **www.eou.edu/dde.**

NEWSBRIEFS

Donate eyeglasses and hearing aids to help others

It is time for the yellow collection boxes donated by the Kennewick Lions Club to be moved to new locations on the Hanford Site. These boxes have been the receptacles for donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids in various locations on the Hanford Site for more than six years.

For the next four months, the collection boxes will reside in the MO-278 kitchen, the 4706 Building entrance way, 2420 Stevens Center lobby and the 3350 George Washington Way lobby. The last four months' collection resulted in 119 pairs of glasses, 7 pairs of eyeglass lenses, 69 glass cases, 4 unopened disposable contact lenses, and 16 hearing-aid batteries. No hearing aids have been received yet this year.

Once collected, the items are turned over to the Kennewick Lions Club. From there, the eyeglasses are tested for prescription levels and provided to the needy in underdeveloped countries. Hearing aids are re-used throughout the United States. Your contributions really do make a difference!

For more information, call Kathy Hinkelman of DynCorp Tri-Cities Services at 376-7631. Hinkelman is Hanford's recycling coordinator for non-hazardous materials

RETIREMENTS

The Retirements feature debuts this week in the *Hanford Reach*. Announcements of retirement parties and receptions will run for two consecutive weeks. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, 10 days prior to publication.

Farewell reception for Gant July 5

Rick Gant is retiring after more than 23 years at Hanford. A farewell reception for Gant is scheduled on July 5 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MO-500 East conference room, in the 100K Area. Stop by and wish Rick happy retirement. Contact Pat Davis at 373-6030 for more information.

Employee Activities H.E.R.O.

HERO POLICY FOR NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS CHECKS — Because of recent incidences with NSF checks received by HERO, our future policy will be to pass associated NSF bank fees on to check issuers. HERO will no longer absorb those costs.

HANFORD RECREATION ASSOCIATION (HRA) DISCOUNTS — Check out the HRA listing often! New vendors are continually added. Located on the Hanford Intranet Web site. To reach the site, click on "Project Hanford Management Contract," "General Information," "Hanford Information," and then "Hanford Recreation Discounts." Our new Web page is in the making…stand by for further instructions!

400/600 AREA HERO REPRESENTATIVE — HERO would like to fill this position. If interested and you have your manager's approval, send e-mail to Donna Leech.

DISCOUNTED POSSE TICKETS — $3 per person for general seating season home games, with the exception of play-off games. For an additional cost, the Posse ticket office will upgrade your general seating tickets to box seating. Contact Nancy Zeuge (X3-74), Marvene McChesney (T4-61) or Margaret Vasquez (G1-27).

THE RICHLAND PLAYERS DISCOUNT TICKETS — Discounts of $1 for individual shows and $4 for season tickets offered to all HRA cardholders. HRA cards must be presented at the box office to receive discounts.

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DISCOUNTED CARMIKE MOVIE TICKETS — $4.50 each with a limit of six per purchase. Restrictions will apply only to Sony DDS movies. A disclaimer for restricted movies will be noted in the *Tri-City Herald* Carmike announcements. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74) or Patti Boothe (T6-04).

DISCOUNTED REGAL MOVIE TICKETS — $4 each with a limit of six per purchase. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Michelle Brown-Palmore (A7-51), Linda Sheehan (T4-40), Nancy Zeuge (X3-74) or Patti Boothe (T6-04).

DISCOUNTED MERCY MOVIE TICKETS — $5 each with a limit of six per purchase. Tickets will be honored at all Yakima Mercy theaters with no restrictions. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Flu Garza (T4-01) or Nancy Zeuge (X3-74).

HERO OASIS WATER NIGHT - July 13, 7-10 p.m. Come to the Oasis Water Park and enjoy a fun-filled family evening. Tickets are only $6 each and include admission, hot dogs, chips, pop and cookies. Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Marvene McChesney (T4-61), Nancie Simon (H6-18) or Nancy Zeuge (X3-74).

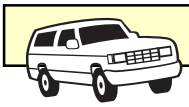
SILVERWOOD THEME PARK — Silverwood is into summertime full swing! Check out HERO's Intranet Web site for a complete schedule of days and times. Adult tickets are $17.84 (normally $25.19), youth (ages 3-7) and senior (ages 65 and over) tickets are $9.44 (normally $16.79). Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Jan Dickinson (H2-23) or Laurie Franklin (R2-12). Personal checks for purchases in excess of $250 will not be accepted. Send a cashier's check or money order for payments in excess of $250. No cash, please!

PENDLETON ROUND-UP TIME – Sept. 16. Saddle up and head on down to the Pendleton Round-Up! Tickets are $13 each with a limit of 4 per person on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't delay. Tickets will sell fast! Send checks made payable to "HERO" to Leann Messinger at T5-05.

CABO SAN LUCAS – Oct. 18-25. $809 ppdo and $767 ppto. Price includes round-trip air from Seattle, seven nights lodging at Posada Real San Lucas, hotel taxes, round-trip transfers and a guest welcoming party. The hotel is located on the beach in San Jose del Cabo. All rooms are air-conditioned and have an ocean view. $100 deposit due by June 30. Send e-mail to Denise Prior.

MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE – Nov. 19-26. New reduced rate! Spend a memorable Thanksgiving aboard Carnival's "Elation" sailing the Mexican Riviera. Rates for this delightful holiday cruise are $1,039 ppdo for Category 4, inside cabins, and $1,139 ppdo for Category 6, ocean view cabins. Price includes round-trip airfare from Seattle, seven-night cruise, round-trip transfers from airport to pier, port charges, all meals and entertainment on board, a welcome-aboard cocktail party and much, much more. A $300 pp deposit is required by June 20 to reserve the cabin category of your choice. Special third- and fourth-guest rates are available for $260 pp, regardless of age, plus $144 port charge and $275 round-trip airfare pp. Send e-mail to Donna Leech.

More information will appear in the *Hanford Reach* and on the Hanford Intranet Web site as details develop and additional trips are offered.



VANPOOLS

KENNEWICK

One seat available for a rider on 8x9s vanpool from Kennewick to 200E. Picks up at the church on 19th, 19th and Garfield, the church at 10th and Union, and Albertson's on Clearwater. Stops at 2750-E, MO-276, MO-273, MO-286 and 2704-HV. Call **Sue** at 372-3752. 6/12

RICHLAND

Only 3 stops and looking for additional riders. 8x9 vanpool stops at the Richland Wye Park 'n Ride (across from Ben Franklin Transit), the Federal Building and 200W PFP. Contact **Rodney Pickett** at 372-1072 or **Dolly Kincaid** at 373-9051. 6/19

Van No. 91 has one vacancy. Richland to 200E Area on standard 8x9 schedule. We drive door to door so you can leave your car at home. Stops at 2750-E and MO-286. Call **Lynn** at 373-9316. 6/19

Van No.153 (standard 8x9 shift) looking for riders. Picks up in the Meadow Springs and Hills West Area. Travels to 200E Area. Call **Pam Powell** at 373-6200 or send an e-mail message. 6/12

North Richland vanpool is in need of one rider/driver. Leaves Stevens Center at 6:17 a.m. and goes to 2704-HV, the 2750 complex, MO-294 and East Tank Farms. Contact **Marge** at 372-3577 or **Don** at 372-1417. 6/12

WEST RICHLAND

Rider needed to fill spot in a vanpool to 200E. 8x9s, 7 to 4:30. Picks up at Flat Top Park 'n Ride and The Pit Stop. 200E stops at 2752/2751, 274-AW, MO-273, MO-294 and 2704-HV. Contact **John Wells** at 373-3733 or **Wendell Briggs** at 372-0951. 6/12